assigned to a transport vehicle or railcar, effective to allow the vehicles to be transported to a desired destination.

Claim 1 (amended, "clean version")

1.   A method comprising the steps of:

providing a storage area having a plurality of storage spaces;

receiving an item;

placing said item in a unique one said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area;

providing a status indicator having one of a plurality of values;

removably placing a selectively re-programmable location determination device upon said item, effective to allow the item to be quickly located at said items exact position in said unique one of said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area; and

shipping said item only if said status indicator has a certain value.

Claim 2 (amended, "clean version")

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said item comprises a vehicle.

Claim 3 (amended, "clean version")

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said item is to be shipped to a certain destination and wherein said method further comprises the step of storing said certain destination within said location determination device.

Claim 4 (amended, "clean version")

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said item is to be shipped by a transport carrier to said certain destination, said method further comprising the steps of:

    assigning said item to a transport carrier based upon said stored certain destination which is resident within said selectively re-programmable location-determination device.

Claim 5 (amended, "clean version")

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of generating a report including the exact location of said item within.

Claim 6 (amended, "clean version")

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said transport carrier comprises a railcar.

7. A method for shipping an item to a certain destination comprising the steps of:

providing storage area having a plurality of storage spaces;

providing a first identification code for said item;

providing a second identification code for said certain destination;

providing a device;

placing said device onto said item;

communicating said first and second identification codes to said device;

disposing said item in a unique one of said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area; and

using said device to locate said item within the exact unique one of said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area and to assign said item to a conveyance, effective to ship said item to said certain destination.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said item comprises a vehicle.

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Claim 9 (amended, "clean version")

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

    providing a third identification code representing a status of said vehicle; and

    communicating said third identification code to said device, thereby allowing said status of said vehicle to be selectively ascertained.

Claim 10 (amended, "clean version")

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said first, second and third identification codes are selectively stored within a database.

Claim 11 (amended, "clean version")

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

    providing a fourth identification code representing a location of said vehicle within said unique one of said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area; and

    communicating said fourth identification code to said device, thereby allowing said location of said vehicle within said unique one of said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area to be selectively and exactly ascertained.

Claim 12 (amended, "clean version")

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of

altering said fourth identification code in response to said vehicle being moved within said storage area.

Claim 13 (amended, "clean version")

13.   A method for shipping a vehicle comprising the steps of:

providing storage area having a plurality of storage spaces;

providing a first code representing an identification number of said vehicle;

providing a location determination device;

placing said location determination device upon said vehicle, said location determination device having a unique second code;

receiving and storing said vehicle within a unique one of said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area;

storing said first code and said second code within a database;

cross-referencing said first code to said second code;

providing a third code which represents a destination of said vehicle;

storing said third code within said database and within said location determination device;

providing a fourth code which represents a status of said vehicle;

storing said fourth code within said database;

disposing said vehicle in a unique one of said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area; and

utilizing said database and said location determination device to selectively locate said vehicle within the exact unique one of said plurality of storage spaces within said storage area and ship said vehicle.

Claim 14 (amended, "clean version")

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said location determination device comprises a transceiver.

Claim 15 (amended, "clean version")

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said fourth code may be selectively altered effective to selectively prevent a shipment of said vehicle.

Claim 16 (amended, "clean version")

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said vehicle is held within said unique one of said storage spaces within said storage area and further comprising the steps of:

providing a fifth code representing a location of said vehicle within said unique one of said storage spaces within said storage area; and

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selectively storing said fifth code within said location determination device effective to allow said vehicle to be located within said unique one of said storage spaces within said storage area.

Claim 17 (amended, "clean version")

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said fifth code may be selectively altered, effective to represent a movement of said vehicle within said storage area from said unique one of said storage spaces to another unique one of said storage spaces within said storage area.

Claim 18 (amended, "clean version")

18. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of creating a sixth identification code having a certain value which indicates a shipment of said vehicle.

REMARKS

The Applicant's undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for a kind and thorough review of the Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 18. More specifically, claims 1 - 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application 4,832,204 of Handy et al. ("Handy") in view of U.S. Patent

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